The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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BUY VICTORY WAR SAVINGS STAMPS

Thru Payroll Savings

WHOLE NO. 1793 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 1945 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 35, NO. 34

LABOR DAY, 1945

By WILLIAM GREEN

President of the American Federation of Labor

(For Use in Labor Day Editions)

This is the first peacetime Labor Day in four years. It is a day for profound celebration and thanksgiving. For we have won a double victory—a military victory over powerful enemies and a spiritual triumph over despotism and dictatorship.

Now is our supreme purpose to attain the fruits of victory for which we have paid so dearly.

First must come lasting world peace. Already the United Nations have shown the way by the adoption of the San Francisco Charter, which is an eloquent testimonial to human rights and human aspirations. It is up to us and to all other peace-loving nations to make that charter work and to banish war for all time.

Then we must put our economic house in order. On an international basis, that means prosperity for the people of all countries. Here at home, it means a higher standard of living and security against depressions and want.

To win the peace and the fruits of peace will not be an easy task. The difficult problems ahead of us demand intelligent planning and bold action. Already millions of Americans are caught in the economic trap of unemployment. Reconversion in some industries is proceeding with painful slowness. But we must not become discouraged. For if we proceed with united determination to win the peace, economic hardships will be of short duration and the great promise of the future can be achieved.

One of the nation's great assets during the war was its strong labor movement. The trade unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor made tremendous contributions to victory. This fact is best illustrated by their cooperation with the government to speed production of the atomic bomb. By use of this devastating weapon we were able to conquer Japan without a bloody invasion. And the War Department has officially testified to the vital role played by American Federation of Labor unions in producing these bombs in record time.

The seven million members of the American Federation of Labor have come out of the war fortified in strength and spirit. They are now better prepared than ever before to carry on the huge tasks of postwar reconstruction. Through the American Federation of Labor, they are exerting a powerful influence over the nation's affairs and guiding its policies along progressive lines.

The American Federation of Labor calls upon the nation to establish maximum peacetime production, which will provide full employment and create steadily higher standards of living.

To provide a ready market for increased production, the American Federation of Labor will bend all its efforts to obtain from management wage rates high enough to create an adequate purchasing power.

In order to share equitably the benefits of scientific invention and new methods of production, the American Federation of Labor will renew its drive for the shorter work week, thus spreading the available jobs and giving all workers the opportunity for healthy recreation and education which modern civilization offers.

On this Labor Day let us dedicate ourselves to the great goals of peace. Let us never forget the supreme sacrifices of the brave American boys who lost their lives on the battlefields of Africa, Europe and the Pacific and the unsung soldiers of production who were killed at their factory machines. Our debt to them can never be repaid. But we must resolve that never shall the dread holocaust of war shall never desolate mankind again, that our hard-won freedoms shall never be surrendered and that the sacrifices of our war heroes shall be redeemed by the achievement of a way of life which will bring happiness and security to humanity in the future.

LABOR DAY MESSAGE

By GEORGE MEANY

Secretary-Treasurer of the A. F. of L.

(For Use in Labor Day Editions)

For the first time in years, the working people of our nation are marking a Labor Day under conditions of peace. In May the arrogant men who had taken Nazi Germany down the path to aggressive warfare were forced to surrender. Last month the Japanese militarists were emulated their erstwhile Axis partners. Thus the most destructive war in the world's history has come to an end—victory for democratic America and our allies, total defeat for those who thought we were going to enslave the world. We give thanks to the Almighty for giving us the strength to subdue the enemies of all humanity.

We rejoice that victory has come and we salute the brave men of all the armed services—the Army and the Navy, the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard—for their mighty contribution to that historic achievement. We also salute the millions of patriotic American men and women who worked so hard for weary months and years on the home front and whose overwhelming production of ships and planes, tanks and guns, ammunition and other items vital in modern warfare provided our men in uniform with the tools which they needed to hammer the Nazis and Japs to their knees.

On this Labor Day of 1945 we already confronted with the grave problem of finding jobs for millions of discharged war workers as well as for those who have already been released from the armed services. For a few days, this problem will become even more serious, for the demobilization of the Army and Navy has scarcely begun.

America must provide employment for all who want and need jobs. We believe in our economic system, which enabled us to attain victory over foes who had enjoyed a long headstart in preparation for war. We believe that our economic system can function successfully and effectively in peace as well as in war.

Not only do we say that there must be jobs for all who are able and willing to work but we intend to tell how this goal can be reached. Short hours and high pay are the key to full employment in America. Our technological advances—even before the war—made it possible that we could turn out volumes of goods with a fraction of the man-hours required in the past. Consequently, almost any industrial product in a short time; the application of new production methods developed during the war will greatly increase the productivity of the individual worker. Shorter work weeks are therefore becomes imperative.

But unless the worker can earn sufficient pay even in a reduced work week, prosperity will be impossible of attainment. The people of our country are the champion consumers of all times. Given the wherewithal, they will buy what our manufacturers produce and more besides. For the U. S. is the American domestic market is the greatest market in the world—but it takes purchasing power in the pockets of the people, most of whom are dependent upon wages, to make the wheels go round.

The need is for a larger share for labor of the fruits of our wonderfully efficient industry, so that our vaunted American standard of living may be enjoyed not only by the few but by all who are willing to share themselves earnestly and efficiently. We of the American Federation of Labor believe in the profit motive because we believe in free enterprise, and there cannot be the one without the other. But when we proclaim our allegiance to free enterprise, as opposed to communism, socialism or fascism, we mean free enterprise as it ought to be and as we intend to have it here—a system under which the profit motive if not reserved to the owners of industry. Labor, which produces our wealth, is entitled to its full and fair share of that wealth.

On this peacetime Labor Day we pledge ourselves to make the trade union organization during the coming year. It is only through organization that we who work for our livelihood can make our voices heard for the preservation of the peace we have won and for the attainment of better, fuller, more secure lives for ourselves and our families under democracy. We face difficult days, but we can solve the problems of peace if we stand united and fight with vigor for progress. We owe it to the millions of brave young men who will be returning to civilian life during the weeks and months ahead look to us of organized labor to lead the fight for the kind of America for which they fought and for which thousands of their buddies gave their lives.

SAY, LISTEN!

For the rest of this year, the AFL presents each Saturday evening at 6:45 P.M., EWT, over the nation-wide network of the American Broadcasting Company a radio news-magazine, featuring the latest news at home and abroad and special reports by expert commentators on important labor problems. This program is listed in the radio columns of your newspaper as "Labor-U.S.A." Our own subtitle for the program is "The American Federationist of the Air." Don't miss these bright, newsy broadcasts! Listen every Saturday night!

Unemployment Leaps To Three Million As War Contracts Are Canceled

Washington, D. C.—With billions of dollars worth of war contracts canceled by the government overnight, postwar unemployment leaped within ten days from a million to over three million, according to estimates made by labor officials in the nation's principal industrial centers.

In almost every city, offices of the United States Employment Service were flooded with workers who had received pink slips without notice and were desperately anxious to obtain new jobs.

At the same time, long lines formed outside the offices of State Unemployment Compensation Commissions. Offices, as the new army of unemployed attempted to get some measure of relief from their financial straits. The pittances offered by most states now are expected to be supplemented by federal funds when Congress acts on President Truman's recommendations to provide unemployment compensation of $25 a week for six months in any one year.

New jobs are expected to open up in fairly large quantities in the service fields and other lines of peacetime business long starved by a manpower shortage, but wages and working conditions in many of these industries are far below the standards prevailing in war industries.

Meanwhile, the Commitee for Economic Development made public a survey indicating that private industry would be able to provide 54 million jobs by September, 1946. This was not a commitment, but merely an estimate.

Reconversion Director Snyder outlined the government's policy on peacetime production and full employment as follows:

"The goal of our economy now that peace has come is in a sense the same as it was in war: production.

"Only a peacetime production, vastly expanded over anything this or any other nation has ever seen, will make possible the attainment of the four major economic objectives which face us in the months ahead. These objectives I conceive to be:

"(1) Jobs for all those willing and able to work.

"(2) A steadily rising standard of living.

"(3) Stabilization of our economy to avoid disastrous inflation or deflation.

"(4) Increased opportunities for farmers and business men.

"In fact, the urgent need to increase peacetime production is the keystone of all the government's economic policy and planning. Every step taken by the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion, and every policy and action of the agencies which this office coordinates, is oriented to this central goal."

For Labor Day Editions

Labor's War Record

Now that Labor Day is here and the war has come to an end, 44 long, tense months after Pearl Harbor, it is timely to sum up labor's part in the tremendous effort. Here are some of the highlights:

PRODUCTION—Munitions output was boosted 11-fold, from a half billion dollars' worth a month to 5½ billion at the peak, greater than the rest of the world put together, according to Under General George C. Marshall, army chief of staff, called the record a "miracle."

TRANSPORTATION—Railroad workers did what prophets of gloom called "impossible"; they carried a load double prewar level, with less than 5 per cent increase in equipment and manpower. Seamen delivered the goods to far-flung military outposts and to our Allies despite intensive submarine warfare which took the lives of thousands of AFL members and sank hundreds of merchant ships.

STRIKES—Contrary to the campaign of abuse carried on against labor during the war, losses due to work stoppages averaged less than 1/10th of 1 percent of time put in by the nation's workers on the job during the war. And even these meager figures were more than offset by the gains in the local holidays.

MANPOWER—America virtually scraped the bottom of the barrel to secure needed workers for industry and the armed forces. Millions of housewives took war jobs. Vast numbers of workers were provided through facilities of training, which alone and again sent members thousands of miles to break manpower bottlenecks, as for example, in the gigantic atomic bomb project.

PRODUCTIVITY—Efficiency of workers in munitions industries leaped 72 percent during the war; on the railroads by even more.

ARMED FORCES—The labor movement entered the military services, including 300,000 from the railroads and a quarter million in the fabulous Seabees. Thousands of them gave their lives in battle.

One final note: The great record was not achieved without sacrifices. Workers toiled almost inhuman hours—often as much as seven days a week for long stretches. Millions shifted to congested war centers, living in tents, trailers, huts and Hoovervilles. Their wages were frozen while prices soared. They endured many other hardships, but they did the job, voluntarily, without a labor draft.

For Labor Day Editions

LABOR DAY STATEMENT

By H. STRUVE HENSEL

Assistant Secretary of the Navy

The year which has passed since last Labor Day has been one of historic significance. We believe that American team of workers and fighters. Their efforts, combined with that of our Allies, have eliminated the forces of aggression and barbarism in Europe. They have also brought about the twilight of the same evil forces in Asia.

More than one Nazi military leader has stated that "American material superiority was just too much"—striking tribute to the productive forces of the United States. Thus the slogan adopted by American workers early in the days of World War II, "We Win," was not only proved, but proved up to the hilt.

The balance in the war against the world's two most militaristic nations, Germany and Japan, was tipped overwhelmingly in Allied favor by the weight of ships, munitions and equipment which our fighting men had the tools and factories. Through three and a half years of this terrible war, American workers have given the tools with which to do the job, that brought Germany down to defeat. That same might drove home to the Japs the hopelessness of continued resistance.

But behind the astronomical volume of ships, planes, weapons and supplies and the gigantic sum total of this accomplishment, has been the contribution of each individual. The courage and patience and quiet strength of every worker in every plant are the simple things which made up this miracle that led to victory. There is no better time than on this Labor Day to relay to labor the Navy's all-out thanks for this outstanding production achievement.

For Labor Day Editions

LABOR DAY SALUTE

By REAR ADMIRAL C. H. WOODWARD, USN

Chief of Industrial Incentive Division

On this Labor Day, the U. S. Navy salutes with extra pride the men and women of America's shipyards, arsenals and factories whose production has brought about the victory for which we all have been laboring. That salute springs from our fighting men all over the world—from deep inside conquered territories, from distant atolls, from beachheads still littered with tragic wreckage, from all of those thousands who daily were thankful for the devotion and skill of those working for them back on the home front.

American labor in the past year has written an epic of accomplishment into history. It was the might of America's production lines, providing our fighting men with the tools to do the job, that brought Germany down to defeat. That same might drove home to the Japs the hopelessness of continued resistance.

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For Labor Day Editions

SOMERVELL HAILS WORKERS

By GEN. BREHON SOMERVELL

Commander, Army Service Forces

On this first peacetime Labor Day in four years, I salute the men and women who forged the weapons, wove the clothing, processed the food, shipped the vast cargoes of war that made our fighting men's valor and sacrifice effective in battle. Our industrial victories and our combat victories are inseparably joined in the history that Americans have written since Pearl Harbor.

The record of the Army Service Forces in arming and supplying more than eight million men is equally the record of labor. We could not have accomplished our mission had it not been for the devoted millions of men and women on the working front.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING OCT. 15 IN CINCINNATI

Washington, D. C.—The AFL Executive Council will hold its next meeting in Cincinnati beginning Oct. 15.

Because of the travel crisis it is not expected that an AFL convention can be held this year. However, if the Office of Defense Transportation lifts travel restrictions on large-size conventions, the Executive Council may revive its plans at its next meeting.

Reconversion Race Starts, New Wage Policy Ordered

Truman's New Labor Policy

Voluntary Pay Boosts OKd And WLB Gets Authority to Break Freeze

Washington, D. C.—The President's statement in regard to labor policy follows:

Our national welfare requires that during the reconversion period production of civilian goods and services go forward without interruption, and that labor and industry cooperate to keep strikes and lockouts at a minimum. We must work out methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes that might adversely affect the transition to a peacetime economy.

We have had an exceptionally good record of industrial peace during the war. We must take the necessary steps now to insure a continuation of this record in the reconversion period before us. We must also, in this period, continue the stabilization program, modifying it to meet the changes in our economy which are now taking place. To these ends:

In the near future I shall call a conference of representatives of organized labor and industry for the purpose of working out by agreement means to minimize the interruption of production by labor disputes in the reconversion period.

The foundation of our wartime industrial relations was an agreement between representatives of industry and labor, who met at the call of the President immediately after Pearl Harbor. This agreement provided that "for the duration of the war there shall be no strikes or lockouts," and contemplated that a National War Labor Board be established for the peaceful adjustment of unsettled disputes. Pursuant to that agreement the President, by Executive Order 9017, created the War Labor Board, and Congress, in the War Labor Disputes Act confirmed and strengthened its authority.

The board is an emergency agency. Its effectiveness has been rooted in the wartime agreement which led to its establishment. As a result of that agreement industry and labor, with but very few exceptions, have voluntarily accepted the board's decisions in the disputes which have been certified to it as affecting the war effort. A new industry-labor agreement to minimize interruption of production by labor disputes during the reconversion period ahead of us is therefore needed.

Pending the completion of the conference and until some new plan is worked out and made effective, disputes which cannot be settled by collective bargaining between employers and employees should be certified to the board without interference with the transition to a peacetime economy, should be handled by the War Labor Board under existing procedures.

For the interim period I call upon the representatives of organized labor and industry to renew their no-strike and no-lockout pledges, and I shall expect both industry and labor in that period to continue to comply voluntarily, as they have in the past, with the directive orders of the War Labor Board.

The Stabilization Act is effective until June 30, 1946. During its continuance wage adjustments which might affect prices must continue to be subject to stabilization controls. With the ending of war production, however, there is no longer any threat of an inflationary bidding up of wage rates by competition in a short labor market.

I am therefore authorizing the War Labor Board to release proposed voluntary wage increases from the necessity of approval upon condition that they will not be used in whole or in part as the basis for seeking an increase in price ceilings. Proposed wage increases requiring price relief must continue to be passed upon by the board.

The reconversion from wartime to peacetime economy will undoubtedly give rise to maladjustments and inequities in wage rates which will tend to interfere with the effective transition to a peacetime economy. For the remaining period of stabilization, the board is directed to give special heed to these maladjustments and inequities, whose scope and nature cannot be clearly foreseen. I am therefore issuing a new Executive Order which will carry forward the authority of the board upon which was originally laid down in Executive Order 9250, and which will also vest in the board authority to grant wage increases necessary to aid in the effective transition to a peacetime economy. The new Executive Order will continue the previous requirement that any proposed wage increase affecting prices, if approved or directed by the board, become effective only if also approved by the Director of Economic Stabilization.

The War Labor Board should be terminated as soon after the conclusion of the forthcoming industry-labor conference as the orderly disposition of the work of the board and the provisions of the War Labor Disputes Act permit, after facilities have been provided to take care of the wage stabilization functions under the act of Oct. 2, 1942.

Meanwhile, the strengthening of the Department of Labor, and the unification under it of the various labor agencies, are going forward under plans being formulated by the Secretary of Labor. In these plans particular stress is being laid on the upbuilding of the United States Conciliation Service. While the return to a peacetime economy and the elimination of the present temporary wartime agencies and procedures, we must look to collective bargaining, aided and supplemented by a truly effective system of conciliation and voluntary arbitration, as the best and most democratic method of maintaining sound industrial relations.

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Expecially is this feeling true with regard to the atomic bomb, which proved to be the victory clincher. The War-Department's official acknowledgement of labor's vital role in the production of this terribly destructive weapon fired the hearts of all who work for peace back home profoundly.

The attitude of the men in uniform out here was summed up by Gen. Robert C. Richardson, Commanding the United States Army Forces in the Middle Pacific area, in a talk he made at Honolulu:

"So far as I know, the Army has never been short of supplies because of labor's problems. In fact, we have been the constant beneficiary of the hard-working war-minded Americans working on the assembly lines on the docks, in the mines and on merchant ships. Supplies and equipment to go from the United States to the front play on the same team. I am satisfied that the total efforts of labor can be called one of the bright spots of the war."

The fighting men out here realize that most of them are due for a long spell of occupation duty before getting back home. Nevertheless, as we represented at the labor press conference in the city of San Francisco arranged for us by the War and Navy Departments, all the G.I.'s we talk to seem to have one question uppermost in their minds. It's this:

"What's the chances of me getting a good job when I get back home?"

Naturally, we suppose the government, labor and private industry in America will have to provide the specific answers to that question right now. All we can tell Uncle Sam's soldiers and sailors is that their prospects basically depend on the attainment of full employment in America as soon as reconversion is completed. And we have to keep on repeating to them that the stories they've heard about swollen pay envelopes for war workers are a lot of bunk.

One final report to the parents of the boys serving out here—they're in good spirits and in good health. Uncle Sam is taking care of them as thoughly as he ever has on the battlefronts. We might add that he's also taking good care of the labor press representatives on this trip. We're having a wonderful time.

AFL HOTEL UNION WINS WALDORF ASTORIA VOTE

New York City.—The last large metropolitan hotel holding out against union organization—the Waldorf Astoria—has now marched into the union column. By a vote of 506 to 189, the workers chose Hotel and Club Employees Union, Local 6, AFL, to represent them in collective bargaining. This makes the hotel industry in this city practically 100 percent organized, Mike Obermeier, president of the local union, declared.

AFL WINS INSURANCE VOTE

Chicago.—The AFL won a three to one victory in an election among insurance agents employed by the John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co. here. The vote was AFL, 167; CIO, 65.

All Set For Occupation of Japan, G. I.'s Eager For News About Jobs

By GEORGE RICHARDSON

Special AFLWNS Correspondent

Guam.—America's vast land and sea forces in the Pacific are ready to undertake the tremendous job of occupying the Japanese home islands. Overjoyed by the end of the war, the men in the armed forces and their leaders do not hesitate to accord American labor a large share of credit for the quick victory.

They know now that superiority of American fighting equipment in the air and afloat was the key factor in breaking down Japan's resistance and they appreciate the fact that American workers back home produced the goods.

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